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Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 266

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7 April 1983

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AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH COMPANY BOOSTS SATELLITE PROSPECTS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by Jane Ford: "Sky's Not the Limit for Auspace Ltd"]

[Text]

HAWKER de Havilland Australia Pty Limited and SA Matra, the French aerospace company, have joined forces to form Australia's first space company, Auspace Pty Ltd.

The move paves the way for the development of a multi-million dollar space industry capable of designing and building the next generation of Australian communication satellites as well as winning lucrative overseas contracts.

The company, officially formed only last week, has already successfully tendered for the contract for the second phase of the Starlab space project — the joint Australian, Canadian and United States project to launch an advanced space telescope aboard the space shuttle in 1990.

It won the contract against stiff competition from two Australian and four international companies including Hughes Aircraft Co, British Aerospace and Orbital Systems of the US.

Under the contract, Auspace will provide specialist space personnel to work with the Skylab project team at the

Australian National University's Mt Stromlo Observatory near Canberra.

The team is developing the central elements of the space telescope — the instrument package which contains a unique ultra large format photon-counting array developed by scientists from Mt Stromlo. This is seen as the key to the success of the telescope.

Auspace will also become lead industrial contractor and be responsible for handling all sub-contracts on the project. It is anticipated that 80 per cent of the work will go to the Australian optical electronics and defence industry.

One of the directors of Auspace, Mr Stan Schaetzel, the technical director of Hawker de Havilland Australia Pty Ltd in Sydney, sees the company expanding and forming the base of a space industry with a capability to design and build the country's next generation of communication satellites.

He says the potential is enormous. Satellites only have a life span of about seven years and each replacement costs between \$200 and \$300 million.

The company will have particular skills in high-precision optics, high-reliability electronics and new low-expansion

carbon fibre reinforced plastic technology which is being used increasingly by the aerospace industry.

Hawker de Havilland has the only operational facility in the country capable of manufacturing these advanced materials from carbon fibres which do not expand with heat. This is an essential requisite for scientific satellites.

The company is already involved in two complex high technology aeronautical projects — Interscan, the Australian-developed advanced aircraft landing system, and the RAAF Space Trainer Aircraft.

Sixty per cent of Auspace is owned by Hawker de Havilland Australia and 40 per cent by Matra, with each having two directors in the new company.

Matra, one of Europe's leading aerospace companies, plans to transfer substantial amounts of technology to Starlab.

Mr Georges Espibal, a director of Auspace and deputy managing director of Matra's space branch, says Starlab will have access to all the company's space technology.

Matra joined the Australian project about 18 months ago when it agreed to transfer

substantial amounts of specialised space technology to Stariab as part of its bid for the domestic communication satellite. Since then, a number of its top space technologists have been working with the Mt Stromlo team.

Hawker de Havilland became involved about a year ago along with 14 other major Australian electronics, defence and engineering companies.

Their support was instrumental in obtaining initial Federal Government funding for the project in last year's Budget.

So far, the Government has provided \$3.33 million for the

instrument package over the next two years.

The project director, Professor Don Mathewson, head of the Mt Stromlo Observatory, and a prime force behind the Stariab project, estimates that the total cost of the Australian part of the project — the instrument package — will be about \$30 million.

The Canadians will provide the telescope and the US the space platform and two free space shuttle flights.

The US has guaranteed to launch Stariab on a space shuttle flight in November 1990, followed by a shorter duration flight in 1992.

TAKE OF MICROELECTRONICS INDUSTRY STYMIES DISCOVERY

Melbourne (The AGE in English 8 Jan 83 p 11)

[Article by Peter Roberts]

[Text]

An Australian team has made a breakthrough in the race to develop smaller electronic circuits.

But because of the lack of an Australian microelectronics industry of any size, the benefits of the discovery are likely to flow overseas.

Researchers at the Joint Microelectronics Research Centre run by RMIT and the University of New South Wales, have discovered methods which will allow the packing of more circuits on to the slivers of silicon that are at the heart of the microelectronics revolution.

Dr Jim Williams, an associate director of the centre and principal researcher at RMIT, said that the development was one of many needed to make possible the next generation in miniaturisation — very large scale integration (VLSI).

VLSI chips cannot yet be made, but when they are produced they will pack the equivalent of 100,000 transistors on to a single silicon chip. This will give computers the size of today's home computers the power of large commercial machines.

"VLSI means taking the circuits you can make today and scaling

them down in size again," Dr Williams said. "The problem is trying to preserve the electrical properties in the smaller device and in some cases increasing the inputs you can get in there."

Research on VLSI chips centres on a new technology for implanting the tiny circuitry on the surface of wafers of silicon. The technology, called ion implantation, involves bombarding the wafers with charged atoms known as ions which are accelerated in an electrical field of up to a million volts.

"These particles can travel typically at speeds of about one hundredth the speed of light," Dr Williams said. "What we are doing is whomping them into the surface of the silicon."

Dr Williams, whose centre has recently been given a \$2 million Federal Government grant, conducted systematic investigations of the amount of ion impurities that could be introduced into the silicon. He recently presented his results at an international symposium in Grenoble, France.

"We have shown that the established rules for how much you can get into the silicon are not correct. You can inject more electrically active particles into the silicon than was thought possible. This will enable smaller circuits to be built."

U.S. FIRM WILL PRODUCE COMPUTER CHIPS IN AUSTRALIA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Jan 83 p 11

[Article by Peter Roberts]

[Text]

An American company which leads the world in techniques of computer graphics has come to Australia to have its latest custom-designed computer chips produced.

Evans and Sutherland Computer Corporation of Utah has placed two of its latest designs on the second multi-project chip being produced by the CSIRO.

The first CSIRO chip was completed in August, making Australia the second nation in the world to custom-design its own multi-user computer chips. It packed 46 separate chips designed by CSIRO, universities and industry on to a single chip of silicon.

Dr Craig Mudge, the head of the very large scale integration programme at the CSIRO Division of Computing Research in Adelaide, said that the two American designs were joined by 36 Australian designs on the latest chip.

"It is kind of amazing that a high technology organisation in the US should seek to implement its chip designs on the Australian chip," Dr Mudge said. "We are very proud of it."

Dr Mudge, who was formerly a professor at the California Institute of Technology, said five Australian companies had designed their own circuits for the latest chip. Applications included processors for a new ultrasound imaging system for pregnancy and detection of breast cancers, a new optical sensor and a new voice processor.

One CSIRO design was for the biggest chip ever designed in Aus-

tralia. The 7.25 millimetre square chip will control signal processing on the \$25 million Australia Telescope now being built.

"Australians are attempting larger and larger designs," Dr Mudge said. "It is a very good sign. There have been a couple of hundred chip designers trained in Australia in the past year."

Techniques developed by CSIRO technically qualified people to learn how to design their own computer chips for use in novel products within a short time. Courses are available at Melbourne University, RMIT and Chisholm Institute of Technology.

The multi-user chip is clearly allowing Australian research organisations and industry a cheap way of developing their own computer chips. The organisations involved in the latest chip have made contributions to CSIRO's costs of between \$2000 and \$5000. The cost of having a single chip made is normally \$50,000.

Dr Mudge also announced that the AWA electronics group of Sydney would manufacture a batch of the second CSIRO chip. The US company which made the first chip for CSIRO is to make a similar batch to that made in Sydney.

"Australia is the first country outside the US to make user-designed silicon chips widely available," Dr Mudge said. "We are watching it grow in front of us."

Dr Mudge said three more multi-user chips were planned for 1983.

(24/11)

CABLE-TO-START--The first of Australia's new long-distance cables will be laid up next year. It is a 400 million cable system, 440 km. of cable and 10 km. of 35 workers and the same number of unskilled workers. The cable, the Australian end of a submarine telephone cable was laid at Bondi Beach. Called the Austral cable, it will link Australia with New Zealand and Canada, as well as Norfolk Island, Fiji and Hawaii. It also will provide a link through other communication systems, to the United States and Europe. The 15,000 km. cable will replace the Compa cable, which was laid at Bondi almost 20 years ago. Compa can handle 8 telephone calls at the same time and it will have a capacity of 1380 calls. In yesterday's operation, 4000 Surf club members brought a rope ashore from the cable ship, Mercury. Workers from the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (the major partner in Telecom), Standard Telephones and Cables (the major contractor), and Telecom then hauled the cable, fitted with floats, to the south end of Bondi Beach--with some unpaid help from on-lookers. Last night, after the connection had been tested, the Mercury was to sail for Norfolk Island, paying out the cable behind it. A similar operation began in New Zealand two weeks ago. [Text] [Brisbane THE AUSTRALIAN in English 14 Jan 83 p. 12]

PHONE ORDER--Telecom has ordered 150,000 telephone handsets to help clear the backlog of people waiting for phones to be installed. The order, worth a total of 19.4 million, has been approved for new and replacement. The federal Minister for Communications, Mr Brown, said yesterday: "Twenty percent of the telephones will be manufactured in Australia. This is in keeping with Telecom's policy of supporting Australian industry. It will also help to keep jobs in Australia. These telephones are for new services and to replace older-type telephones in existing services." He said this final purchase for the 1981-82 program was part of Telecom's successful effort to clear the backlog of people waiting for a telephone to be installed. The contracts have been awarded to the Sydney-based companies, Standard Telephones and Cables Pty Ltd and Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd. "These purchases would allow Telecom to maintain its target of more than 2,000 installations each working day," Mr Brown added. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 14 Jan 83 p. 2]

CSIRO SUPERCOMPUTER--The nation's major scientific research organisation, the CSIRO, will update its computing facilities with a multi-million-dollar super-computer. The Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Thomson, said the computer, the CR10 202, was one of the world's fastest and most powerful. The

BRIEFS

PALAPA B-1 LAUNCH PLANS--Jakarta, 1 Mar (ANTARA-OANA)--Indonesia's next communications satellite, the Palapa B-1, will be launched into orbit in space either in late May or early June this year, according to latest plans. Post and Telecommunications Director General S. Abdulrahman led a team to the United States recently to consolidate preparations for the launching of the satellite by a U.S. space shuttle ship. The Palapa B-1 satellite had already been placed at the Kennedy Space Center of NASA in Florida, ready for launching. S. Abdulrahman during the visit also inspected the Palapa B-2 Indonesian satellite which was being manufactured by the Hughes Aircraft Company in El Segundo, California. Indonesia's first communications satellite, the Palapa A-1 was launched in 1976 and its second one the Palapa A-2 in 1977. [Text] [BK100714 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0734 GMT 1 Mar 83]

CSO: 5500/4339

FIVE BRANDS OF MICROCOMPUTERS CHOSEN FOR SCHOOL USE

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 31 Jan 83 p 30

[Text] The long-awaited decision on which microcomputers are best suited to secondary schools' educational needs was released by the Education Department today.

While no one system met all the criteria in specifications drafted by the State Services Commission and the Education Department last year, five were listed as best suited to schools.

They are: Apple II, BBC Micro, BMC 800, NEC PC 8001, and Poly 1.

Invitation

Manufacturers and suppliers of microcomputers were invited to submit their wares, for what could eventually turn out to be a supply contract with more than 300 secondary schools throughout New Zealand.

When applications closed on August 17 last year, 15 companies had responded. They have not been named.

The document released today is a copy of the specification requirements that went out to all the companies. Secondary school principals were sent the document last week.

The decision ends a long wait for secondary schools, some of which are already

operating computer systems.

A spokesman from the Education Department, Mr Peter Brice, said school principals would be pleased to have the guidance the decision provides.

"Principals will be pleased to know that these five machines measure well in respect of the specifications. It will give them some guidance in terms of purchases they may wish to make."

There was some controversy last year when one computer company — Apple Computer Inc of the United States — offered a cut-price computer to schools in an effort to undermine the market of New Zealand's only locally developed system — Poly 1.

Struggling

The offer of quarter-price Apple II computers came in June last year, at a time when Poly, backed by the Development Finance Corporation, was struggling to make sales to schools.

Both computers figure on the department's list. It will now be up to the individual schools to make a choice.

"We didn't know when we started the exercise whether one, or more than one, of the systems would meet specifications. As the document

says, no one system met all the requirements we set out," said Mr Brice this morning.

The 15 systems were evaluated by a team of people from the State Services Commission's computer services division, with three representatives from the Education Department.

The specifications they worked under are detailed in the document sent to schools.

Equipment must be able to operate in conjunction with school issue furniture, and it must be portable within the school.

Novices

"The users will be novices to computing hence there will be a requirement for robust fail-safe equipment," says the document.

The document also outlines the following characteristic essential in any system for the best interests of New Zealand computing education.

- That the entire procedures involving the equipment be nationally co-ordinated.
- That control of any development to the system rests with the Education Department.
- All equipment should have the potential to be upgraded for the inclusion of new technology.

BRIEFS

SUPPORT FOR GUANGDONG TV--In order to further improve Guangdong television and enrich the people's cultural life, the CPC Central Committee propaganda department and the Ministry of Broadcasting and Television recently issued a circular demanding that all parts of the country support the Guangdong television station and provide the province with more outstanding television programs. During the first month after the circular was issued, the Guangdong television station received 54 dramas and skits from 22 provincial and municipal television stations, together with 22 video recordings of literature and art programs and over 10 special topic programs. These included new works just completed by the stations concerned, such as the serial "Wu Song" from the Shandong station, the serial "Hai Xiao" from the Shanghai station, the serial "Yang Jiao Liang" from the Sichuan station, the serial "Black Cross" from the Dalian station, and a film of scenery along the Changjiang in Sichuan and Hubei Provinces, from the Chongqing station. The programs sent by television stations throughout the country have played a very good part in enlivening ideological and cultural life in the urban and rural means of Guangdong and enriching the province's television screens. The Guangdong television station is also stepping up the production of all types of programs to provide to stations elsewhere. [Text] [HK170121 Guangzhou Guangdong Provincial Service in Mandarin 2350 GMT 16 Mar 83]

SPECIAL MICROWAVE CIRCUIT--The Shenyang-Qinhuangdao microwave circuit for use by the electric power departments was recently completed. In the past, dispatch communications and communication channels between the Ministry of Hydroelectric Power and the Northeast Power Administration had to rely primarily on ordinary long-distance telephones, which restrict power dispatches and production management. Completion of this microwave circuit will completely link the Shenyang to Qinhuangdao and to Beijing circuit. In this way, the State can at any time and directly grasp the situation of power production in the Northeast by means of telephone and teletype. At the same time, the new circuit will also ease the communications traffic of the power network in western Liaoning. [Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese 4 Feb 83 p 2]

NEW MICROWAVE TRUNKLINE--The newly built microwave trunkline between Shenyang and Dandong was officially put into trial operation on 11 February 1983, using a 10 [MHz frequency bandwidth] channel. From now on, Dandong can directly receive color television programs from the Central Television Station and the Liaoning Provincial Television Station, and Dandong's television programs can also be relayed to Shenyang and Beijing. [Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese 12 Feb 83 p 1]

GUYANA, SURINAME MOVE TOWARD DIRECT DIALING SYSTEM

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Feb 83 p 8

[Text]

THE Guyana Telecommunication Corporation is now engaged in a joint feasibility study with its counterpart in Suriname to link the countries by a Direct Dialing System.

This was disclosed by the Corporation's Commercial Manager Leyland Mc Davidson in New Amsterdam Wednesday night. Addressing the Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association on plans to improve the telephone service between the two countries, Cde McDavidson said the survey which is being financed by the EEC is aimed at developing telecommunication and trade between the two states.

In reply to questions from the businessmen Cde Mc Davidson said the Corporation has not been officially informed of any suspension of EEC aid to the study, due to the

recent problems in Suriname.

He expressed the view that the development of the telephone service to Suriname would allow Berbice businessmen to develop export trade links with Nickerie and Paramaribo.

Members of the Chamber said that the new service, if put into action, could open new avenues for the agriculture drive in Berbice.

They said that there was tremendous potential for the export of agriculture produce from Berbice to Suriname and agreed that businessmen and farmers could benefit from the proposed telecommunication link-up.

The Chamber members who complained about the poor telephone service in the county, suggested to the commercial manager that a special council be set up by the Corporation to look into consumers' complaints — (GNA).

CSO: 5500/7540

DATA PROCESSING AFFILIATE OF AIRLINE TO OPEN IN 1983

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] SOME 200 Barbadians will find employment when a new data processing company, the Caribbean Data Services Ltd. (CDS), starts operations here during the latter half of this year.

This was announced at a Press conference at the Barbados Hilton yesterday, by the president of CDS, Donald Carty.

The new processing centre, which will occupy the building recently vacated by Coopers Barbados Ltd. at the Harbour Industrial Park, is an affiliate of AMR Corporation, the parent company of American Airliners, which it will be servicing.

"We shall be recruiting approximately 200 persons locally to help man the operations. Advertisements will be appearing in this week's papers describing the skills we are looking for and the availability of applications at our site," Carty said.

He added that those chosen for training would learn and perfect skills involving the very latest in modern communications and computer technology, which he felt would add an entirely new dimension and educational level to the economy here.

"We also believe that in successfully perfecting our operations for American Airlines, we will have formed the basis for further expansion in technology fields both by my own company and by others eager to follow us to Barbados," the president stated.

"In the meantime, the new jobs created by CDS will immediately pump new sources of revenue into the local economy in the form of salaries, taxes, and the purchase of local goods and services," he added.

He said that after considering several possible locations, his company had selected Barbados because it believed this country was an excellent place to do business.

"We found Barbados to have a stable, enlightened governmental system and a cooperative business environment--an environment oriented to profitability. We also believe that you offer a work force that is singularly industrious and well educated," Carty said.

CDS will be the fourth data processing company to operate in Barbados. The others are Times' Mirror, Barkey, and International Demographics.

CSO: 5500/7537

BRIEFS

RURAL TELEPHONE PROJECTS--The telecommunications firm GUATEL is investing 8 million quetzals in the development of the second stage of a rural telephone project which will help 57 towns, according to an announcement made yesterday by the head of the firm, Col Carlos Anibal Mendez. He explained that the project is named "Rural Telephones II" and was begun 2 months ago. It is expected that in a year it will be completed. The official explained that in a short time another rural telephonic project will be initiated costing about 18 million quetzals. This is the third phase of the master plan which aims to provide telephone connections among 173 towns located far from the capital. At the present time, work is in progress toward letting the job out to bid. This project is considered important because it will promote development in the nation's interior. [Text] [Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Feb 83 p 6] 11989

CSO: 5500/2041

BRIEFS

'FREE NICARAGUA' STATION HEARD--Choluteca, Honduras, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A radio station that is calling for a "democratic government" and is supposedly transmitting "from somewhere in Nicaragua" was heard for the first time today in southern Honduras. The station identifies itself as "Free Nicaragua" and broadcasts on the 60 m band from 0500 to 2100 (1100 to 0300 GMT). Some Nicaraguans living in this area say they recognize the voice of Eden Pastora, former Sandinist interior minister, in some of the station's political messages. The station said that its programming reflects the thoughts of the anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ANR). The tone of "Free Nicaragua's" analysis is rather moderate and although it constantly criticizes the nine commanders who are part of the Nicaraguan executive branch, it does not insult them. [Text] [PA260109 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1750 GMT 25 Feb 83]

CSO: 5500/2047

MEXICO

BRIEFS

TELEX NETWORK ENLARGEMENT--Mexico City, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX)--The Communications and Transportation Secretariat announced today that Mexico will enlarge its telex network in order to meet its international microwave and satellite needs. The measure includes an additional 3,000 new lines, for a total of 26,400, which, the secretariat added, will meet telex communications requirements. [Text] [FL211338 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0044 GMT 20 Mar 83]

CSO: 5500/2046

CONTRACT PROBLEMS IN TELEPHONE EXPANSION CITED

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Mar 83 p A 2

[Editorial: "Telephone Expansion"]

[Text] During his last Sunday press conference, the president of the republic expressed his interest in completion of the needed Lima telephone expansion and commented on the Japanese Government's excellent spirit of cooperation. His statements were received with obvious complacency. We have been waiting several years for the installation of 150,000 new telephone lines in Lima. The winning bid on this expansion plan, which was initiated by the previous administration at the end of 1980, was submitted by a Japanese firm, the Nippon Electric Company (NEC). Before the contract could be signed, it was necessary to complete the necessary paperwork and to reach a credit agreement with the Japanese government. The chief of state pointed out Japan's willingness to grant this and other credits to our country.

However, recent meetings of the investigating commission appointed by the Chamber of Deputies and the resignation a few weeks ago of the directors of the Peruvian Telephone Company [CPT] have once again generated scepticism. According to published reports, within the investigating commission there have been repeated objections to irregularities in the contract, changes in the basic provisions and technological shortcomings as regards the telecommunications services offered. Apparently, these are the same objections which were made public over a year ago. The elapsed time led to the supposition that with new studies and a report by the Comptroller General of the republic the matter was closed. It is noteworthy that the same questions are still being debated.

Of greater substance is the observation that the National Bank is unable to provide its guarantee to permit the signing of the financing agreement with the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Fund, because a prior legal justification is required. A report issued by the National Bank on 25 February states that even though the CPT is characterized by state shareholding it is not a state enterprise. Therefore, as a privately owned company, it would not be included among the enterprises for which the state could provide loan guarantees.

This is a consequence of the special legal situation of the Peruvian Telephone Company. According to a letter sent by the board of directors of that company to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in October 1982, the state's participation in that company totals 16.99 percent of the shares: it participates directly for a total of 8.96 percent and indirectly, through

ENTELPERU (National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru) for a total of 8.03 percent. The number of private shareholders is much greater; however, they have no decision-making authority and do nothing more than pay the bills. That is, in practice CPT operates like a state enterprise. With regard to the state's legal right to guarantee the company's loans or to finance it, which is what is being discussed, the minister of transportation has said that all problems will be resolved within the framework of the law and very soon.

This is exactly what the public wants. The shortage of telephones in Lima is evident and with the continual growth of the city, the 150,000 new lines are even now insufficient. However, we cannot go on hoping. If there are legal objections to the contract, these should be clarified and resolved. Without a doubt it would be a grave responsibility to approve an improper contract. But those who discuss without resolving also have a grave responsibility, as they continue to leave Lima years behind without the telephone expansion it urgently needs.

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CSO: 5500/2044

BRIEFS

TV TRANSMITTERS FOR INTERIOR--All the departmental and provincial capitals will soon have television transmitting or retransmitting stations, pursuant to the provisions of the supreme decree which establishes the "Special State Radio and Television Plan." This announcement was confirmed by the head of the National Social Communications System, Miguel Alva Orlandini, who announced that Radio Nacional will also soon have a new master station in Lima and eight regional stations which will be tied into the border radio network. Alva Orlandini said that this plan will be implemented with the technical and financial cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany, which has a fund of 4 million marks for the execution of the first phase of the plan. On the subject of extension of the border television network to all departmental and provincial capitals, he announced that 18 transmitters purchased from the Thomson Consortium are already on their way to our country. These transmitters meet the specifications provided in the specific agreement with France on this matter. Ten of these 18 transmitters are 1,000-watt and the rest are 100-watt. Among the first cities that will have their own television transmission or retransmission systems are Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Apurimac, which will be immediately hooked up via satellite, once the work is completed. Other equipment will be installed along the coast, between Tumbes and Tacna, where there are no official state network stations at the present time. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p A 4] 5143

CSO: 5500/2044

BRIEFS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS--The Shamsbad television station has been installed which is already working with a capacity of 12 communications channels and one colour TV channel with the possibility to expand in the future. This station has been installed as part of the gratis aid of the Soviet Union. Radio stations of the type CPB-7 have been installed with a view to broadcast local programmes in the cities of Moqor, Qalat, Lashkar Gah and the district of Khowst. It is planned that such stations will be built also in the cities of Zaranj and Farah by the end of the current year. A long way radio station will soon start operations for the far flung areas of the country. Financed by the Soviet Union this station will broadcast radio programmes on medium waves of 1,000 kilowatts. The telecommunication services have also increased after the revolution. In 117 places wireless stations have been installed and are functioning for inter-provincial communications. [Excerpts] [LD010149 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 28 Feb 83 LD]

CSU: 5500/4727

PROCEEDINGS OF INFORMATION FLOW SEMINAR REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17, 18 Feb 83

[Article by N.L. Chowla]

[17 Feb 83 p 8]

[Text]

THE seminar on the flow of information among South Asian countries, jointly sponsored by the Press Institute of Bangladesh and UNESCO in Dhaka recently, merits a discussion on two accounts.

First, this was the first attempt at identifying the problems on a regional basis. The participants in the seminar from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand represented a fairly wide spectrum of media functionaries in the region.

Secondly, the two in-depth studies on the subject, one conducted by the Press Institute of Bangladesh and the other by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, have provided an insight into the flow of information among countries in the region.

At the outset it was emphasised at the seminar that the countries of south-east and south Asia, representing over 1,000 million people, almost one-fourth of the world population, have many things in common — culture, customs, traditions, the legacies of the colonial past and of poverty and large rural populations. In certain other respects like language and literature, too, there have been shared values. Therefore, the general theme was that, despite variations in media development and control under different political systems, the countries in the region could share experiences and co-operate in strengthening mutual information flow. In particular, it was stressed that they should develop the capabilities to reduce reliance on the transnational news agencies or specifically in respect of news about each other.

Both the director-general of UNESCO, in his message to the seminar, and the Bangladesh minister for information, Syed Najmuddin Hasham, in his inaugural address, attached importance to this aspect.

The imbalance in information flow between a few developed countries and the developing world has been discussed for nearly a decade. It is no longer disputed that the existing state of information dissemination in which some three million words a day are put out by the four transnational news agencies — Reuters, AFP, AP and UPI—circulated to different international circuits around the various regions of the world has worked to the serious disadvantage of the developing countries.

Different Approach

Besides the fact that these agencies devote to the news from developing countries only one-fourth of their wordage, they adopt a distinctly different approach to the selection and presentation of news. What has been termed as negative reporting in the despatches of these agencies has a wider ramification.

Prof. Q. A. I. M. Nuruddin of the department of mass communication and journalism in Dhaka University put it in these words: "In the name of political stability it (the transnational power structure) defends the status quo where this is in its own interest; in the name of economic efficiency it creates the conditions for transnational expansion of capital. In technological creativity it concentrates vast resources on research and development, re-

lated to the requirements of its industrial-military apparatus and the interests of its transnational enterprises, which have little to do with the real needs of the third world; and in the name of freedom it blocks, intervenes in and destabilises the actions, policies and programmes of progressive governments."

It was also noted that the recent developments in communication technology which again is controlled by a few countries was in fact thwarting the efforts of the developing countries to balance the information flow. The Associated Press in New York has a computer system dispensing news at the rate of 15,000 words a minute. None of the developing countries has such an infrastructure.

The findings of a recent study by Dr. Wilbur Schramm of news contents in 16 Asian newspapers came up for discussion. The study has revealed that 75 per cent of published third world news was being received from the transnational news agencies. The reasons given were: (A) The news reports from transnational agencies travelled much faster; (B) Such news are handled by highly skilled journalists; and (C) Most of the journalists in the developing countries have imbibed the western values of news and believe that the selection of news by transnational agencies is of greater relevance to their audiences than the news flows from national news agencies.

Three-Day Talks

The three-day deliberations in Dhaka closely examined these factors. The seminar adopted what was called

the Dhaka declaration on flow of information among south Asian countries. The first point emphasised in the declaration was that south Asian countries have emerged as an entity with many mutual interests and also common problems in the field of knowledge and dissemination of information. It was felt that these problems could be effectively tackled only through co-operative efforts. Political and economic relations among the countries in the region were conducive to the expansion of information flow which would in turn strengthen the efforts for regional peace, amity and co-operation. It called upon the governments to considerably reduce the tariff rates on the reception and transmission of news, remove all restrictions on travels by journalists for performing their professional duties and to encourage the import and export of such newspapers and journals as are informative and do not contravene the laws of the land.

The declaration invited the editors of newspapers and other media controllers to re-examine their attitudes to the news of the region with the dual purpose of allocating more space to it and to reduce reliance on the transnational news agencies. News agencies and other news organisations were urged to set up feature departments or syndicates to provide detailed in-depth coverage of life, situa-

tions, development activities and other human stories which may be distributed widely within the entire region. One of the recommendations was that a regional council of media professionals be set up to review the progress of information flow, identify the problems which hamper the flow from time to time and create atmosphere in favour of mutual co-operation. Such a forum, it suggested would make an important contribution towards further strengthening political, economic and cultural relations. A new south Asian identity could emerge by encouraging flow of information through regional channels, adopting a new information strategy.

The declaration asked UNESCO to assess the needs of south-Asian countries and to provide technical and financial assistance for the purposes of setting up a fault-free, quick and efficient transmission and receiving system of news and information in the region. Training for journalists was another area in which UNESCO should extend help through new training centres, and by strengthening the existing ones.

The declaration took note of the awareness of the emerging regional identity as well as of the importance of information. It hoped that this awareness will lead to concrete action enabling peoples in the region to see each other through their own perceptions and projections.

[18 Feb 83 p 8]

[Text]

THE deliberations at the Dhaka seminar on the flow of information among South Asian countries have been reviewed in the earlier article. The focal point for discussions was provided by the studies recently conducted by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC). Although the studies did not follow a set pattern or the same methodology they had a similar objective i.e. to determine the transmission of international news through different channels within the region and their utilisation by newspapers. They examined the domination of the four transnational news agencies, the contribution made by the national agencies and the role of newspapers in creating regional awareness.

The PIB conducted its study on the basis of foreign including regional news published in some selected newspapers of six South Asian countries: Bangladesh, Burma, India, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka and Nepal. The newspapers thus analysed were: "Working People's Daily" of Burma, "Bangladesh Observer" and "Ittefaq" of Bangladesh, "The Times of India" and "Anand Bazar Patrika" of India, "Dawn" of Pakistan, "Daily News" of Sri Lanka and "Rising Nepal" of Nepal. The period of the study was the first week of October 1982. The other two countries in the region i.e. Bhutan and the Maldives could not be included in the study because Bhutan has no daily newspaper and the PIB could not obtain newspaper copies from Maldives.

First Finding

The first finding of the study is that only one-fifth of the total international news related to the countries of the region and there was no news about Burma, Bhutan and Maldives published during the week. The news about India and Pakistan occupied major portion of the regional news. One-fourth of the international news was about the United States and Western Europe whereas only 3 per cent was about Africa and Latin America. Ex-

cluding the South Asian region and the Middle-East the news about the rest of Asian countries was only 9 per cent of the total international news. Clearly, the newspapers carried more news about Western Europe and America than the news about the region or about other countries in Asia. Another conclusion arrived at was that in almost all the newspapers 80-90 per cent space of the international news was given to non-regional news whereas regional news occupied 10-20 per cent space.

The Indian newspapers alone carried a comparatively higher percentage (30 per cent) of the regional news. The newspapers of Bangladesh reported international news concerning Pakistan and India only and no news about Sri Lanka, Nepal and Burma. Similarly Sri Lanka published no news about its close neighbour, Maldives.

The sources of international news were divided into different clusters. The major transnational news agencies — Reuters, ADP, AP and UPI — were put together. In the case of Burma and Sri Lanka more than 90 per cent of the international news came from these four transnational agencies. In Nepal the percentage was 83 and in the case of Bangladesh and Pakistan it was 65 and 55 respectively. Only in India less than half of the international news (36 per cent) was the contribution of these agencies. Again, it was in India that the national news agencies of the region supplied one-third of the international news, in Bangladesh this percentage was one-fifth. The volume was the lowest in Sri Lanka i.e. 1.9 per cent. In Burma no news from the national news agencies of the region was published during the period of the study.

The qualitative aspect i.e. the content of the news was also analysed. In general, it can be said that development news such as news about industrialisation, agriculture, health, science and other problems of specific relevance to the developing countries received meagre coverage.

The study by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication which was conducted in 1979 surveyed foreign news in the Indian media. The survey called "foreign images study" was undertaken on UNESCO initiative and was co-ordinated by Prof. James Halloran, president of the International Association for Mass Communication Research. For the purposes of the study five English dailies published from five different places covering different regions of the country were selected.

The dailies included "The Hindu" (Madras), "The Hindustan Times" (New Delhi), "The Indian Express" (Coimbatore), "The Statesman" (Calcutta edition) and "The Times of India" (Bombay edition). One continuous week and one composite week were sampled for the content-analysis. Also, one important news bulletin each, of radio and television (Delhi centre) were analysed.

The results of the study indicated that a little more than one-fourth of the news space time in the Indian media was devoted to foreign news, TV giving maximum (33.5 per cent) time as against 18.3 per cent of the radio news bulletin time. The newspapers gave about 27 per cent of the total editorial and news space to foreign news. Region-wise, Asia figured most prominently (45.8 per cent) in Indian media, followed by Western Europe (13.1 per cent), North America (13.0 per cent) and Middle-East (12.2 per cent). Stories from Africa and Eastern Europe were fewer, only 7.3 and 5.2 per cent respectively, and Latin America was covered least (1.5 per cent).

Foreign News

The contribution of foreign sources for foreign news in the Indian press added upto 40 per cent which was about the same as by the home agencies and staff reporters. In respect of news from Asia nearly 55.0 per cent were accredited to the Indian news agencies and staff correspondents.

This study clearly brought out the fact that there was increased emphasis on Asian news pertaining mostly to economic and development spheres, in the Indian press. Consequently there was less dependence on Western news agencies and there was a substantial contribution of Indian news agencies and newspapers' own correspondents.

Even though the studies by the PIB and the IIMC differ in their approaches and do not cover the same period for content-analysis of newspapers, a conclusion which is common to both is that the Indian newspapers give a much wider coverage of the news of Asian and South-East Asian countries and that the contribution of the Western transnational news agencies in this regard has been much less than in other countries in the region.

The Delhi seminar took notice of these facts and suggested that the Indian experience could be studied in greater depth by news agencies and newspapers in the region.

INFORMATION SECRETARY SPEAKS AT INFORMATION FLOW MEET

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Feb 83 p 5

[Article by A. B. M. Ghulam Mostafa]

[Text] I am delighted and indeed honoured to be able to speak a few words at the inaugural session of the Seminar on 'Flow of Information among South Asian Countries'. We are happy to note that Dhaka has been selected by UNESCO as the venue of this Seminar which, we believe, will go a long way in bringing closer the countries of this region not only in the field of communication and information but also in other fields. I would like to thank the UNESCO and the Press Institute of Bangladesh for organising this important Seminar. On behalf of the Information Ministry of Bangladesh Government may I also take this opportunity of welcoming the distinguished participants from our friendly countries and wish them a pleasant stay here.

The peoples in South Asia region have a common past. We are also following the common goal of trying to improve the socio-economic condition of the people within a short span of time. Despite national peculiarities we have many common problems and the ways of their solution may also be common. We can learn a lot from each other and share each other's experience. But this is greatly impeded as there is gross disparity in the flow of information among these countries.

Information and communication, as we all know, are assuming increasing importance in all matters of national life. It has a crucial contribution to make in all political economic cultural, educational and social change. If we can make use of this in a planned and meaningful way, we can achieve excellent results.

Increase of information flow among South Asian countries has a definite purpose. The present day trend is to relate information and communication with national development goals and strategies. Communication is no more a practice without a sense of direction. It is now essentially goal oriented and that goal is the overall development of countries.

We in Bangladesh fully agree with the MacBride Commission Report for fashioning a New World Communication and Information Order. This is essential if we want to reach the goal of a new world economic order. We would like to see

that the media in the Third World countries play their due role in stimulating economic development, promoting social and cultural change in line with the aspirations of the people and forging national unity. We would also like to see that this role is played well and fully and that the present dominance of the transnational media who monopolise themselves in catering "all the news" and "all the analysis" to the "passive" developing countries is combated. We would like to see the improvement of technological base and skill in those countries.

The goal to increase information flow among South Asian countries cannot be realised without some positive actions. A number of measures may be considered desirable in this regard. First of all, the creation of facilities in the form of communication resource is an imperative need. All the countries in this region should have the technological facility and ability for both reception and transmission of messages. Unfortunately, many of them now are only capable of receiving messages. They do not have adequate facility to transmit them. It is, therefore, necessary to create as well as augment reception and transmission facilities at national and regional levels. The national news agencies will have to play the pivotal role in this regard and improve the transmission facilities. Where possible and feasible, the facility of satellite communication may have to be exploited to improve the capability.

There is also the need for setting up a regional news agency which can be conveniently linked to the national news agencies in addition to independent collection of information. This regional agency can act as a channel and be a useful purveyor of news and information among the countries of the region. The recent move for setting up Asian News Network is a step in the right direction. We would like to see that this institution grows quickly so that it can realise the objectives for which this has been set up. From our side we will be prepared to render full cooperation and support to this organisation.

The collection and dissemination of information about various countries along will not be enough. This news will have to be published in news papers. An important element of cooperation among the countries of this region will be publication of news, on a larger scale than at present of other countries in the newspapers of another country. Features, commentaries, in depth news etc. on the activities, policies and programmes and success stories of various countries should be published liberally.

It is important that the journalists have first hand knowledge about different countries of this region. This will enable them to communicate more effectively. To achieve this, there should be more and frequent exchange of media personnel and administrators among these countries.

There is also the need to improve the professional competence and skill of the media people in this region. For this purpose, training programmes, seminars, workshops etc. will have to be organised on a larger scale. The various national Mass Communication or Press Institutes will need further strengthening. Some of the advanced institutes in this region may offer training facility to other countries in line with the arrangement under Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

Another area which needs our attention is the reporting of news about rural areas. There now exists imbalance in the coverage of news between urban and rural areas. The national news agencies and newspapers will have to pay greater attention to this aspect so that the activities and problems in the rural areas, the hopes and aspirations of the rural people are reflected more in the national dailies.

I hope the communication experts and administrators present here would critically examine all the related issues and come up with pragmatic and valuable recommendations for ensuring greater flow of information among the countries of South Asia.

I like to thank you again for giving me this opportunity of sharing with you my ideas on the subject. Greater flow of information among our countries is a must. We are as one in our conviction that a greater and balanced flow of information between the developed and the developing countries as well as among the developing countries assures a promising future. We have confidence in our ability to achieve this goal.

[From the speech of Information Secretary delivered at the inaugural session of the PIB-UNESCO Regional Seminar on "Flow of Information among South Asian countries].

CSO: 5500/7079

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS REVIEW THANA FACILITIES

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] A meeting was held in Dhaka on Thursday under the Chairmanship of DCMLA and Minister for Communications, Rear Admiral M. A. Khan at the Bangladesh Secretariat to review the telecommunication facilities in the upgraded thanas, reports BSS

It was found that there are only 167 thanas which have telephone facilities out of the 212 thanas so far to be upgraded. There are five automatic telephone exchanges and 162 magneto and CB type in those thanas.

There are no telephone facilities for 45 thanas. It was also found that there are inadequate trunk facilities in these thanas.

I and T Board has taken the following decisions to overcome these and to provide reliable means of telecommunication facilities.

A) Upgrading of following exchanges into 400 lines automatic exchange (present capacity in bracket).

Keraniganj (300) Sherpur (200) Mirzapur (200) Patiya (250) Kaptai (220) Laksham Daulat pur (220) Sreemangal (300) Habiganj (270) Sabar (110).

B) Upgrading of following exchanges into 200 lines automatic exchange:

Baider Bazar (60) Muktagacha (110) Bajitpur (110) Hathazari (110) Satkania (110) Lohagara (110) Companyganj Bashurhat (120) Lakshmipur (120) Raipur (120) Chhagalnaiya (120) Hajiganj (110) Chhatak (110) Fakhirhat (110) and Pan chagarh (110).

C) Upgrading of following exchanges into 100 lines automatic exchange:--

Hatiya 60 m Daudkandi 60 Akhaura 60 Fenchuganj 60 Biswanath 60 Badarganj 6 Chat mohar 60 Shahjampur 60 Betkuchi 60 and Kubush 70.

D) It is also decided to have 30 lines magneto in the following thanas of where no telephone exists at present.

Dohar Rupganj Daulatpur Araihaazar Gazaria Nikli Madan Kalmadanga Austagram
Bhuapur Bashail Melandah Mohanpur Charchat Tanore Manda Lalpur Bagtipara
Gomestapur

Kaharul. Nawabganj Haripur Gangachara Mitapukur Trash Dighinala Manikchari
Bilaichari Rowangchari Ruma Kanai ghat Bahubaj Gowainghat Lak hai Jamalgani
Zanjira Baliakandi Terokhada Tala Dumu ria Tajimuddin Babuganj Sree pur
Manpura and Golachipa.

The above work when completed by the end of this year will incur an expenditure of Taka 16 crore 40 lakh from Thana Development Fund, and provide a great boost to the local economy in addition to round-the-clock communication link up with Dhaka and other places through nation-wide dialling system under installation at present.

CSO: 5500/7081

BRIEFS

COMILLA RADIO STATION--COMILLA Feb. 4--Mr. A.B.M. Ghulam Mostafa Secretary Ministry of Information has said that a ten kilowatt radio station will be commissioned by March. Speaking at a reception arranged in his honour by Comilla Press Cub at Comilla Circuit House on Friday Mr. Ghulam Mostafa said an expert team will visit Comilla soon to study the feasibility for the establishment of Television station. The Information Secretary later attended the prize giving ceremony of Comilla Nazrul Parishad as the chief guest. He told the gathering that he would take all possible measures to hold a national Nazrul songs competition shortly. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Feb 83 p 1]

TANGAIL AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE--TANGAIL, Feb. 16--The DCMLA and Minister for Communications Rear Admiral M A. Khan, has directed the replacement of the existing 400-line telephone exchange of limited capacity at Tangail with a new 1000-line automatic exchange says an official source. The directive came during the DCMLA's visit to the local telephone exchange on Tuesday. The Rear Admiral regretted that Tangail being a district headquarters had only 400-line exchange, whereas some of the sub-divisional headquarters and even thanas had more than this number. He also directed that the exchange will have to be completed within the next six months in the old building without making a separate building for the same to avoid further expenditure and delay. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Feb 83 p 1]

CSO: 5500/7082

SARIN COMMITTEE REPORTS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Feb 83 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, February 15.

THE reluctance of the government to bifurcate the P and T into separate departments as proposed by the Sarin committee will in the long run cripple development of telecom services, a sizable section of technical personnel feel.

The committee headed by Mr. H. C. Sarin, an experienced administrator now posted as ambassador to Nepal, went into all aspects of the running of the department and produced a monumental report on what is to be done to improve the efficiency of the services.

The government claims it has already taken action on as many as 248 of its 434 recommendations. Only 24 were rejected and 28 proposals were stated to be under consideration.

The bifurcation proposal is included in the last category, but indications are that it will not be accepted.

CHALLENGES OF W&T

However, the committee feels that telecom services will not be in a position to meet the challenges of development and modernisation as long as it is tagged to a totally dissimilar service.

It feels that the present administrative structure is antiquated, but the administrators are too entrenched to acquiesce in any change.

Ironically, since the submission of the report, the number of telecom experts at the policy-making level has been reduced from three to two. There used to be two telecom members on the P and T board (development and operations) and one additional secretary. But the post of additional secretary has now been given to a member of the Indian Administrative Service (Bihar cadre).

The technical services in the department are not prepared to give up

their campaign for what they consider the most important and rightful recommendation of the committee.

They feel that the administrator Jobby was wanting to scuttle the recommendation. They charge that the lobby has sought to raise the smoke-screen of accepting a 'majority' of the recommendations and withhold the vital ones.

The Indian Telecommunication Services Union in a memorandum to the secretary of the communication ministry, has cited British and other parallels and views of experts to buttress its contention that it is difficult to plan for and implement both postal and telegram services at high efficiency unless there is bifurcation.

COSTLY DISTORTIONS

What is worse a proposal supposed to be in response to the Sarin committee report seeks to introduce further distortions in the structure of the existing P and T board by seeking to upgrade the posts of some of the members. The upgradation will create two streams within the P and T board and make its functioning only difficult.

The case for the bifurcation, as seen by the Sarin committee, was not based on the need for any high-level cadre review. Telecommunication operations requires different administrative systems and practices than those in the case of the postal system. In the current organisational structure, it is difficult to introduce any change in personnel policy or procedures because there will have to be extension to the postal service also.

While new electronic systems are being introduced, the majority of the telecommunication activity is still the unskilled craftsman. The more sophisticated telecommunication system requires less number of persons, but

with higher skills and training. In a common P and T board the thinking is influenced by the needs for operating the manual postal service.

Devoid of the postal service, it admitted a drag on the resources of the telecommunication, since the former incurs a loss of Rs. 100 crores per year, while the latter generates resources to the tune of Rs. 500 crores. Diversion of these resources for subsidising the postal service hampers the telecommunication service and retards its development.

The telephones department is unable to get the equipment produced by the Indian Telephones Industries, but to that of financing its plants, a commercial undertaking though. The situation will get only worse as the telecommunication needs as well as the postal service, rises proportionately in the coming years.

The arguments for increasing the tempo of investment in the development of telecommunication services have been generally conceded by the government. However, the present attitude of treating the postal and telecommunication services as one unit is going to severely affect the development of telecom services as indicated.

Among the Sarin committee's recommendations rejected by the government are those favouring expansion of the telephone, telegrams and televisions, and a separate board for postal, telegraph and television.

In the committee's view, one of the most important reasons for the slow and unimproved development of the state channels of telecommunication is the lack of a separate department for telecommunication. The committee has suggested that the department be set up by 1984 for proper management of the telecommunication services. It is expected that the government will accept the committee's recommendations by 1984.

INSAT OPERATING CAPABILITY EXPECTED IN 1983

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 25 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 24--The Government told Parliament yesterday that the reestablishment of the INSAT system operating capability "is expected in late 1983 upon an August-September 1983 launch on INSAT-IB."

In a statement on "results on INSAT-IA failures' investigations" the Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Shivraj Patil said that the Government had accepted the report of the INSAT-IA Failure Review Committee along with "its recommendations for corrective action on INSAT-IB" for implementation.

He said that the insurance claims of \$65.55 million on account of INSAT-IA spacecraft "total loss" against launch all-risks insurance policy and "no claim premium return" insurance policy "is expected before March, 1983".

The INSAT-IA Failure Review Committee consisted of 19 senior spacecraft and/or spacecraft utilization experts covering diverse fields such as reliability engineering, spacecraft propulsion and control systems, spacecraft structure and mechanisms sensors and VHR instrument. The committee was chaired by Professor U.R. Rao, member, Space Commission.

Four of the 18 members of the committee were from the INSAT-I space segment project office. Eleven specialists were from other units or centres of the ISRO. Three specialists were from the INSAT user Ministries, namely Ministries of Communications, Information and Broadcasting and Civil Aviation. The main review was conducted during 11-22 October, 1982, at the spacecraft manufacturer's plant in USA. The committee was assisted by four senior U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration spacecraft specialists, provided by NASA at India's request, as technical advisers.

The essence of the review committee's finding is that the basic design of the INSAT-IA spacecraft is sound and that the loss of INSAT-IA on September 4, 1982, was because of a complex interplay of relatively minor spacecraft deficiencies and unforeseen events, each of which under normal circumstances were extremely unlikely to cause a catastrophe. These cascading set of events covering a duration of about one hour and 16 minutes on September 4, 1982, have been attributed to a complex combination of (1) minor deficiencies in ground control software, (2) lacunae in contingency operations procedures and (3) unexpected on-board anomalies.

The earlier deployment of the solar sail had necessitated routine compensation of off-set solar torque solely through the spacecraft's attitude control system. On September 4, a modest yaw build-up which had occurred on the spacecraft was being slowly removed by the spacecraft's Autonomous Control System ("yaw" in spacecraft's reference system is rotary motion about a line between the satellite and the centre of the earth).

CSO: 5000/7094

PAPER SIGNS COOPERATION PACT WITH 'BUDAPRESS'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Feb 83 p 10

[Text] **B**UDAPRESS, the Hungarian press agency and PATRIOT daily on Friday signed an agreement of mutual cooperation in the field of publicity, at the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre in Delhi.

The agreement was signed by Hungarian Ambassador Dr Ferenc Turi on behalf of Budapest and by Mr R K Mishra, Editor, PATRIOT, on behalf of the newspaper.

They exchanged copies of the agreement at the short ceremony, which was presided over by PATRIOT and LINK Editorial Board chairman, Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali. LINK Editor V D Chopra, members of the diplomatic corps of the socialist and developing countries, besides journalists from other organisations, also attended the function. Representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Hungarian Ambassador Turi said the agreement of Budapest with PATRIOT was an effort in the direction of giving a concrete shape to the general agreement for mutual cooperation in the field of publicity that was signed some years ago by Hungary and India.

In this regard, he said that two years ago the Hungarian news agency MTI had signed an agreement with the PTI and efforts were on to conclude a similar agreement between the Hungarian radio and television network and the Indian mass media.

Dr Turi assured that they would not spare any effort to fulfil their part of the agreement. He also expressed the hope that the External Affairs Ministry would give the necessary help to the Hungarian journalists who would be coming to India soon to cover the Non-aligned Summit.

Dr Turi then presented a set of books on Hungary to Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali.

PATRIOT Editor R K Mishra said that the signing of the agreement was a happy occasion for the institution as it would contribute to a better understanding between Hungary and India.

INFORMATION ORDER

He said the agreement was a step in the global effort for a new international information order. Mr Mishra pointed out that 80 per cent of the world's flow of news was controlled by four transnational agencies like AP and AFP.

Mr Mishra said that the agreement with Budapest was the second of its kind that PATRIOT

had signed recently, the first being with a Bulgarian newspaper.

He said Hungarians had first used the method of non-violence when in 1867 on this day finally succeeded in resisting the Austrian king's rule.

The PATRIOT Editor said that the agreement would provide for an exchange of journalists so that colleagues from PATRIOT and their counterparts could visit each other's country and spend some time there.

Deputy secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs R L Furgusan said that the agreement was in a sense a bridge for the exchange of knowledge between the two countries.

Expressing an apology on behalf of joint secretary Mani Shanker Aiyar, who could not attend, Mr Furgusan said that their external publicity division was constantly striving to bridge the gap of information between India and other countries, the need for which had been stressed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He also hoped that efforts would be made to sign similar agreements with other countries for exchange of knowledge and culture.

Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre director Josef Szabo welcomed the guests and also proposed the vote of thanks.

TROPOSCATTER SYSTEM FOR OFFSHORE OIL INSTALLATIONS

Bombay: THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] Bombay, February 14. The troposcatter communication system, originally developed for defence purposes, will now provide communication link to off-shore oil installations at the Bombay High.

Troposcatter system has already been used for communication link with the Soviet Union. The Andamans have also recently acquired this system.

The troposcatter uses a layer of atmosphere as the reflecting medium with just two radars, thus linking two remote, inaccessible places.

Dr V.P. Kodali, director (technical), department of electronics, today highlighted this aspect as a spin-off from the defence-oriented research and development in electronics. Dr Kodali was delivering the keynote address on "Electronics and Communications in the '80s" at the inauguration of a symposium at the Indian Institute of Technology here.

Great Impact

Surveillance radars, communication satellites and remote sensing satellites are among the other benefits derived by civilians as a result of investments in defence electronics.

Satellite education, teleconferencing, satellite communication and digital electronics would have a great impact on the information and communication technology in the next decade, Dr Kodali said.

The decision-makers, which comprised a majority of nonexperts, often took unwise decisions without understanding the implication of a fast developing technology like electronics, Dr Kodali pointed out. However, the setting up of the National Radar Council in 1974 was a wise decision taken by such a body, he said. In radar technology we would be on par with the rest of the world, Dr Kodali added.

Earlier, Prof. A.K. Jha, Director of the IIT, in his inaugural speech, said that electronics and communication were two key words for progress. Dr V.V. Sahasrabudhe, convenor of the symposium, welcomed the delegates.

HIGH THRUST LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT

BK241647 Madras (IN) HNDN IN (22/10/85) (Mar 85) P 5

[Text]. Bangalore. Man-India's efforts to acquire indigenous satellite launch capability has received a boost with the fabrication and development of the country's first high thrust liquid rocket engine by the scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation [ISRO].

Built two years ahead of schedule by 1,000 engineers of the liquid propulsion projects division here, the engine Vikas is a "breakthrough in precision fabrication technology."

The liquid engine has developed with technology acquired from Society European Propulsion (SEP) France, through an international collaborative programme.

The engine will go into the second stage rocket of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) which is scheduled to place a one ton Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellite in a near circular polar orbit of 800 km altitude in 1987-88. Space scientists are enthusiastic to get the 40 ton engine which has mix of two liquid propellants, tested and qualified.

The possibility of sending the engine for tests in France is not ruled out.

ISRO scientists said that the liquid engine which made up the second stage of PSLV was important in the launch of the IRS satellite. The engine now developed would mark the beginning of the high thrust rocket engine which would make the country totally self-sufficient in launcher capabilities.

The liquid propulsion projects division deputy director, Dr G. Goena, would told newsmen today that the building of the engine began as early as 1979 after four years of participation by Indian engineers in the SEP collaborative programme.

Mr Gandhi said since the fabrication of the engine required very high precision, ISRO made an extensive study of Indian industries for infrastructural help. Work began in 1983 earned mil. after proposals for fabrication of

several of the components were received from the industries. Among the major subcontractors were Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Dynamics, Hyderabad. Besides these 20 other industries had also provided help to ISRO in assembling the over 2,500 components of the engine.

Mr Gandhi said the second Vikas engine was already 60 percent ready and its fabrication would be completed by July.

The PSLV vehicle of which the liquid engine forms the most important part is the major project of ISRO in the coming years. The first stage of the vehicle would consist of a solid booster with 125 tons of propellant augmented by six strap-on motors derived from the SLV-3 first stage. Two optimised solid boosters would make up the third and fourth stages.

The PSLV itself will be preceded by developmental flights of SLV-3 and the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV). The fourth development flight of SLV-3, scheduled for next month, would probably be the last if it is a total success. This would be followed by work on the ASLV which will have the capability of launching 150 kg spacecraft in low earth orbit. The ASLV is essentially configured around SLV-3 with two strap-on boosters derived from the first stage of the SLV-3.

ISRO sources said work was proceeding simultaneously on all the three projects--the SLV-3, the ASLV and the PSLV.

CSO: 5500/4731

PLANS FOR SOUTHERN NETWORK EXPANSION TOLD

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Feb 83 p 5

[Text]

The telephone network in the South will be considerably expanded and modernised by 1983 when large-scale plans will be executed under the sixth Five year Plan, reports PTL.

Besides indigenous strowger and cross-bar exchanges, a number of new imported electronic and cross-bar exchanges are due for commissioning in the next three years in several towns in the southern States.

Four manual exchanges are due for automatization during this year. The strowger exchanges will be installed in Tenali in Andhra Pradesh (1500 lines), Tirunelveli in Tamilnadu (2700 lines), Dindigul in Tamilnadu (2400 lines) and Nagarcoil in Tamilnadu (2100 lines).

Five towns will have containerised electronic exchanges, imported from Holland. The exchanges to be installed during 1983-84 are in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh (2000 lines), Gulbarga (2000 lines), Udipi (2000 lines) both in Karnataka, Changanacherry in Kerala (2000 lines), and Karur in Tamilnadu (3000 lines).

In addition, indigenous cross-bar equipment will be installed in the next two years in five

towns. They are Eluru (1500 lines), and Tirupati (1500 lines) both in Andhra Pradesh, Tellicherry in Kerala (2500 lines), Coimbatore (Sai Baba Colony) in Tamilnadu (3000 lines), and Madras (Ambattur) (2000 lines).

Besides, imported Japanese cross-bar equipment will be installed at five more cities during 1983-84. They are in Bangalore (Rajaji Nagar) (10,000 lines), Hyderabad (Charminar) (6000 lines), Madras (Mambalam) (5000 lines), Madras Harbour (5000 lines) and Trivandrum (Lathamukhu) (5000 lines).

Four new telex exchanges will be added to the 16 such exchanges working in Tamilnadu with a total capacity of 2210 lines. There will also be expansion of the existing telex exchanges in several cities and towns in Tamilnadu during the Plan.

A 10,000-line Stored Programme Controlled (SPC) local exchange at Nungambakkam and other 10,000-line transit SPC digital exchange at Flower Bazar, both in Madras and both imported, are expected to be commissioned in August and May next year respectively.

NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE OPENS, PLANS TOLD

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Feb 83 p 10

[Text]

A NEW 1200 lines telephone exchange with code number '24' will be commissioned at Laxmi Nagar on Tuesday. Minister of State for Communication V N Gidgil will inaugurate the new exchange, reports UNI.

This is the 48th local automatic exchange in the Delhi telephone system. The exchange building is located in Laxmi Nagar district centre behind Radhu Palace cinema. With the commissioning of this exchange the equipped capacity of the Delhi telephone system has risen to 2,47,000 lines.

With the commissioning of the exchange, approximately 164 connections presently being served by Shahdara 21 exchange and 15 connections served by Shahdara east 20 exchange are being transferred to the New Laxmi Nagar 24 exchange. The spare capacity of the exchange will be utilised for accommodating all pending shift-in requests and thereafter new connections will be provided progressively.

Commissioning of this exchange is only one of the many steps being taken for providing relief in trans-Yamuna area. The other

steps taken are: a new crossbar exchange designated as Shahdara East II (86) with an equipped capacity of 1,000 lines is under installation.

This exchange is expected to be commissioned in March, 1983. A further expansion of this exchange by 1,000 lines during 1983-84 has also been planned. The equipped capacity of Ghazabad II (84) exchange is being increased by 2,000 lines (2000-4000) during 1983.

A new multi-storeyed telephone exchange building has also been planned for construction at this site at an estimated cost of Rs 1.5 crores, the foundation-stone for which is being laid on Tuesday simultaneously. The building which is likely to be ready by August, 1984 will enable 40,000 lines of exchange equipment to be installed therein.

Initially, digital electronic local exchange equipment of 15,000 lines to be imported from France will be installed in this new building.

The commissioning of this exchange during 1984-85 will enable the entire existing waiting list to be wiped out.

MADRAS TELEPHONE, TELEX PLANS REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Feb 83 p 12

[Text]

MADRAS, Feb. 16

The total capacity of the various exchanges of the Madras Telephones system would go up from 90,000 lines to 1.05-lakh lines by the end of this year and to 1.32 lakh lines by 1984 end, Mr. K. C. Ramadoss, General Manager, told newsmen here today.

When the capacity reaches one lakh lines, the minimum rental (for two months) would increase to Rs. 200 from Rs. 175.

A cross bar exchange would be set up, at Ambattur with a capacity of 2000 lines at a cost of Rs. 99 lakhs to replace the present MAX II exchange of 1,300 lines. It would be ready by September-October.

For the Harbour area, a 5000 lines cross bar exchange had been imported from Japan for the benefit of the applicants in the waiting list in the Central Exchange area. The exchange would be expanded by another 5,000 lines. The total project cost would be Rs. 5.64 crores and the project was expected to be completed in the next eight months.

Under the Mambalam II project, costing Rs. 5.34 crores, a new 5,000-line, local crossbar exchange was being imported from Japan. The equipment was likely to be delivered next month and the exchange installed by December.

Another project was for the expansion of the Kaimandapam exchange by 300 lines to 5,400.

Telex facility: Mr. Ramadoss said the installation of the 3700 line electronic telex exchange now in progress in the Harbour telecom building was expected to be complete by December and with the commissioning of this, the entire waiting list (1200 applicants) for telex connections would be cleared. The equipment had been imported from Siemens of West Germany. The project cost about Rs. 6.67 crores out of which the foreign exchange component was Rs. 2.5 crores.

The 300-line expansion project for St.

Thomas Mount was expected to be commissioned during March, he said.

A Rs. 5.27 crore project for installation of an electronic trunk automatic exchange with Japanese equipment was expected to be completed by December. This would enable the extension of national subscriber dialling facility to various cities, Mr. Ramadoss said.

Nungambakkam and Flower Bazaar areas would get electronic local exchanges of 10,000 lines capacity each next year.

The following seven stations would get subscriber trunk dialling facility by March this year: Dindigul with code number 0451; Nagercoil 04652; Tirunelveli 0462; Ambur 04171; Vaniyambadi 04174; Gudur 08624 and Tiruvellore 04116.

Mr. Ramadoss said that 25,000 applications were in the waiting list for phone connections in Madras at present.

New directory: The new telephone directory has 1,23,916 entries. The maximum number of entries are under alphabet 'S' (18,207) closely followed by 'M' (9316) and the minimum under the alphabet 'X' (35).

Releasing the directory today, Mr. Ramadoss said arrangements were being made for early distribution of the directory to the public.

He said 1,34,000 copies had been printed using 64 tonnes of paper. Computerised printing would help to release the directory at a very short notice.

Though the directory is a 1982 issue, it included the telephone numbers affected by the area transfer in Anna Road effected on January 11, 1983. For the convenience of the public the important numbers are given on the first page as compared to the second page in the last issue. The advertisement pages are clearly marked with yellow border in consonance with international standards.

BRIEFS

COMMUNICATIONS YEAR PLANS--New Delhi, Feb 11--Mr S.K. Ghose, Secretary, Union Ministry of Communications, is heading a National Coordination Committee to achieve the objectives laid down for 1983, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly as the World Communications Year (WCY). The committee has taken decisions on a number of pilot projects and training programmes. These include augmentation of telecommunication facilities in rural areas, strengthening of communication infrastructure in coastal and cyclone-prone areas for timely warning, projects for the accelerated growth of traffic in international circuits, data communication, use of the international marine satellite (INMARSAT) in maritime mobile communications and improvement of existing telephone facilities in metropolitan cities. The national committee will also highlight the importance of communication infrastructure in various fields like agriculture through seminars. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Feb 83 p 16]

INTERCITY COMPUTER NETWORK--Hyderabad, Feb. 11--The Union Government has decided to form "Indo Net," a computer network under the Computer Maintenance Corporation linking Bombay, Delhi, Hyderabad, Madras and also New York through satellite from Delhi and Bombay for software programme, said Dr. M.S. Sanjeeva Rao, Union Deputy Minister for Electronics. The minister was addressing the 29th annual general meeting of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers at the Visvesvaraya Bhavan here today. The Government had decided to set up a Rs 60 crore silicon complex. Work on a semiconductor project, costing about Rs 30 crores, was in progress at Chandigarh. The Government had also decided to set up a Rs 19 crore microtube project. Dr V.S. Arunachalam, Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, delivered the 15th Homi Bhabha memorial lecture. He said India should be in a position to develop, design and manufacture all the defence equipment. Col. B.K. Rai, the new IETE president, was installed. Earlier Mr M. Wagle welcomed the gathering. Mr M.R. Subrahmanyam, General Manager, Telephone, Andhra Pradesh, proposed a vote of thanks. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Feb 83 p 16]

INDORE PHONE EXCHANGE--Inaugurating the 1,800-line third unit of the telephone exchange at Park Road in Indore on Friday, the Union communications ministry secretary, Mr S.K. Ghose, said he had directed the Indore district telephone manager to improve the department's efficiency from the present 62 percent to 80, reports our correspondent. The general manager, M.P. telecommunications circle, Mr J.I. Gupta, said a Japanese cross-bar exchange for 5,000 lines would be commissioned by December. The exchanges at Mhow and Manglia would be expanded. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Feb 83 p 6]

SIGNALS CORPS COMMUNICATIONS--New Delhi, February 15--The Corps of Signals, which celebrates its corps day today has drawn up a comprehensive plan to meet the futuristic communication needs of the armed forces. The 'Plan Aren,' totally indigenous, aims at providing secure and high quality communications, traffic clearing media and data channels in a fast changing environment of the future battlefield scenario. A visit to a number of signal units located in and around Delhi showed how these units provide signal communications to army headquarters and its subordinate headquarters spread all over the country. The army headquarters signal centre, tape relay centre and a trunk exchange maintain the communications network. An automatic computerised message switching centre was commissioned on Friday. This ensures the speedy clearance of message traffic. A 2000-line automatic exchange for the exclusive use of the defence headquarters is also being installed here. Maj. Gen. M.C. Rawat said that the Corps of Signals not only provides swift, sure and secure means of communications, but also looks years ahead so that the ever-increasing needs of the army will always be met. A new computer system is to be installed this year to further augment the computer resources at army headquarters. This will be installed at the Sena Bhawan and will be the nub of the army integrates data plan, linking up this computer with a number of other static and field computer systems all over the country. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Feb 83 p 12]

MULTICHANNEL VHF LINK--New Delhi, Feb 16--All India Radio's research department has developed a multi-channel VHF link for its transmitters since the performance of the P and T circuits linking its stations have not been up to the mark. This was stated at the just concluded zonal conference of engineering heads of AIR and TV stations. It was decided to approach the various State Electricity Boards to give AIR and Doordarshan stations priority in uninterrupted power supply due to the frequent breakdowns in supply. It was also suggested that adequate quantity of good quality tapes should be imported and stocked since there was scarcity in the indigenous product.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Feb 83 p 7]

ELECTRONIC PABX OPENS--India has entered the electronic age in telecommunications with Union Minister of State for Communications. V.N. Gadgil commissioning a 1,200-line capacity electronic PABX in Vigyan Bhavan on Friday for the nonaligned summit next month, reports PTI. The exchange, imported from France, will provide connections to the nonaligned summit conference secretariat as well as to the heads of delegations and other important functionaries for the convenience of contact among themselves and with their Indian counterparts. Mr Gadgil made the inaugural call to Mr Natwar Singh secretary-general designate for the nonaligned summit sitting by his side and the call materialised instantaneously. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Feb 83 p 10]

SFT SYSTEM--Delhi entered a 'new era' and 'computer age' in its telegram transmission system when Minister for Communications V.N. Gadgil switched on the 'store and forward telegraph (SFT)' system on Wednesday, reports PTI. The SFT system, third in the country after Madras and Secunderabad, enables a subscriber, say in Ludhiana in Punjab, to send a telegram to Madurai in Tamilnadu in just under 10 minutes, according to Delhi Telecommunications

General Manager A.S. Wakile. The Delhi SFT system connects about a dozen cities or towns in the north to an equal number of places in Tamil Nadu. It also connects an equal number of places in Andhra Pradesh for inter-transmission. The places connected to the system in the north are Agra, Ambala, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Jullundur, New Delhi, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Simla, Jaipur, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Feb 83 p 10]

DELHI TELEPHONE SERVICE--DELHI Telephones are out for a massive expansion programme which would give city telephone users another 1.67 lakh telephone lines in addition to the present 2.47 lakh lines during the next four years. Union Minister of State for Communications V N Gadgil announced this on Tuesday, while inaugurating a 1,200 line telephone exchange at Laxmi Nagar in the trans-Yamuna area. The Delhi communications he added, were entering the electronic age with the commissioning of a stored programme controlled electronic trunk automatic exchange and teleprinter exchange within next two months. An 8,000-line trunk automatic exchange had already been imported from Japan at a cost of Rs 12.3 crores, he announced. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Feb 83 p 10]

ANNUAL REPORT--India's first experimental telecommunication satellite, Apple, has achieved nearly 80 percent of its mission goal despite operational constraints. This has been stated in the annual report of the department of space for 1982-83. It says the indigenous components and subsystems on board the satellite are functioning effectively and the life of Apple, launched in June 1981, has been extended up to the second quarter of this year. The earth observation satellite, Bhaskara-Two, launched in November 1981, continues to be operational and is expected to provide data during this year. Regarding the launching of the second development version of SLV-3 scheduled for next month, the report says a number of major improvements have been made on the basis of experience gained from the previous flights. [Text] [BK270952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 83]

TELECASTING OVER SOVIET SATELLITE--Doordarshan has begun telecasting its program via the Soviet satellite Statsionar 6, instead of Intelsat 5. The switch-over was made on Friday following the leasing of a TV transponder in the Soviet satellite for a period of 10 months. The alternative arrangement had to be made as the Intelsat authorities expressed their inability to continue to provide the facility. According to an official press release, the services of the Soviet Geostationary satellite over the Indian Ocean were explored and found to be technically and economically favorable. [Text] [BK270943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Mar 83]

CSO: 5500/4733

BRIEFS

NEW OPPOSITION RADIO STATION ACTIVATED--The Front for the Liberation of Iran, led by former Iranian premier Ali Amini, is establishing a new radio station, it is believed in Cairo, for beaming programmes into Iran for two hours daily. It will broadcast between 7:30 and 8:30 pm. Tehran time on the 23 metre band, 11670 megahertz, after NowRuz. [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 112, 10 Mar 83 p 8]

CSO: 5500/4732

BRIEFS

BRAZZAVILLE-POINTE NOIRE MICROWAVE CONNECTION--The TRT [Telecommunications, Radio, and Telephone Service] has just placed in service a microwave link between Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, in the Congo. This first two-way television hookup will be supplemented in the next few weeks by a channel providing for the simultaneous transmission of 960 telephone calls between Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, contributing in this way to opening up this region. The entire network will be completed in the course of the next few months. It will be connected to the Gabonese microwave network later. This project, which is in addition to the contract valued at more than 120 million French francs entered into by TRT in 1981, is a part of the panafrikan telecommunications network and includes about 30 stations equipped with 4 GHz [Giga Herz], new generation equipment. The network extends in an East-West direction from Brazzaville to Pointe Noire and in a North-South direction from Loubomo to Mbinda. It includes about 3,000 kilometers of microwave channels carrying 960 simultaneous telephone lines, a television channel, and four audio channels. In case of accident to one of the lines there is provision for automatic transfer to an emergency, backup channel. "IRT 1500" integrated rural telephone and telecommunication system, operated with solar energy, will complete the network to provide service to certain, sparsely inhabited areas. [Text] [Paris ELECTRONIQUE ACTUALITIES in French 11 Feb 83 p 10] 5179

(S) 5507415

KENYA

BRIEFS

PAY-TELEPHONE SYSTEM FROM DENMARK--The telephone manufacturer GNT Automatic, of Copenhagen, has received an order from the Postal and Telegraph Agency of Kenya for 3,500 coin telephones. The deliveries of equipment will come to a value of about 45 million Danish kroner, states GNT Automatic. The agreement was reached in cooperation among the government of Kenya, DANIDA--which is the Danish Foreign Ministry's section for international cooperative development--and GNT Automatic. The pay-phone system will be installed over two or three years. [Text]
[Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 24 Mar 83 Sec III p 1]

CSO: 5500/2651

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

NEW TELEX EQUIPMENT--The Chairman of the Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET), Dr Ibrahim Tahir, has said that the new telex equipment bought at N3.5m. to replace the burnt ones, had 1,550 trunk lines to link subscribers and an automatic repair and maintenance system. Dr Tahir told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that other features of the equipment were inbuilt power supply, airconditioning and computer systems, to detect and repair faults. The chairman also said that an engineer from the manufacturers would work with Nigerian experts trained in the Eltex Telex series for continuous supervision and maintenance. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3421, 7 Mar 83 p 630]

CSO: 5500/112

DEVELOPMENT OF 'RADIO LOTUS' PROMISED

Durban PHOENIX in English Jan 83 p 4

[Text]

THE official launching of Radio Lotus was held at a cocktail reception on January 8 at the S A B C's studios, almost two years after the initial success of the musical programme Kaleidoscope. Radio Lotus, a commercial radio station will transmit its programmes on frequencies covering the Alverston, Durban-North, Pietermaritzburg and Bluff areas and provide for a listenership of almost eighty-seven percent of Natal's Indian community.

The personalities on Radio Lotus include Farida Ismail, R. B. Ram, Sergie Naidoo, Logan Govender and B. K. Chinnah.

In his official address, the Director-General of S A B C, Mr. S. M. De Villiers said Radio Lotus is a commercial radio station and offers a unique opportunity to advertisers in Natal. "No matter how modest your business, regard the station as an additional marketing and selling platform. Use it. It is yours," he said.

Programmes will cover a wide spectrum. Emphasis will be placed on the broadcasting of musical programmes which will cater for the tastes of everybody. Besides nightly request editions for popular film hits, classical as well as western music will also be featured. Local talent will also be heard on the air.

The Indian community, an already news-conscious society, will be able to listen to programmes of topical interest. News bulletins of international, national and regional interest will be covered on sixteen weekly slots. A regular magazine edition will give the community a chance to tune in on

interviews featuring prominent personalities of the Indian community. Pop-music enthusiasts are not forgotten, a special weekly hit-parade for the teenagers will provide the latest in pop entertainment.

Mr. De Villiers said, "A big stride has been taken to the 49 hours per week envisaged for Radio Lotus from the modest two-hour Kaleidoscope request programme that first started three years ago. The Indian community has always been a traditionally cultural-conscious society and this was borne in mind when planning the programmes."

Vivacious Farida Ismail, popular personality of Kaleidoscope, said she was elated to work as an announcer for Radio Lotus. "This is tremendous for the people of Natal and I hope one day Radio Lotus will be beamed throughout the Republic." Music compiler Anita Soojansingh, library assistants Amitha Anand, Kodisvari Devar and Monica Pather dressed in magnificent saris and sipping champagne to toast the official opening of the station when the red studio light went on at midday said they were all delighted to be involved Radio Lotus.

Mr. De Villiers said the expansion of Radio Lotus to the rest of Natal will be implemented as soon as the circumstances allow. "I should like to assure you that the development of Radio Lotus is a matter that will be receiving the constant attention of the S A B C management. He said although the service will develop its own style and individuality, it will always have access to and enjoy the back-up of the resources of the entire South African Broadcasting Corporation.

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

CLANDESTINE RADIO STATION STATUS--A South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC] spokesman in Johannesburg has discounted a claim by the Harare HERALD newspaper that a clandestine radio station beaming into Matabeleland is linked to the introduction of Radio Ndebele, the SABC's service aimed at the Kwa-Ndebele homeland. Radio Ndebele would only go on the air at about 6 p.m. on 29 March, he said. He believed the broadcasts into Matabeleland were being received on shortwave and the new service would only broadcast on the FM band. [Text] [MB231259 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Mar 83 p 3]

CSO: 5500/123

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

'TELE-X' SATELLITE CONTRACT--Paris--The French AEROSPATIALE [National Industrial Aerospace Company] firm and the German EUROSATELLITE GMBH [expansion unknown] firm have just signed, with the SSC [Swedish Space Corporation], a letter of intent for the development of the Scandinavian satellite TELE-X. The definitive contract, which is to be signed in the coming months, is valued at 650 million francs. The satellite, which is to be placed in geostationary orbit at 5 degrees east longitude in 1986 by an Ariane rocket, will provide Sweden, Norway and Finland simultaneously with direct-TV and data transmission services. This satellite, which derives directly from the Franco-German TDF-1/TV-SAT program, will weigh 2,130 kg and will measure 5 m high and 19 m across with solar panels deployed in orbit. It will provide three high-powered direct-TV channels and two data transmission channels. [Text] [Paris AFP SCIENCES in French 10 Feb 83 p 20] 9238

CSO: 5500/2629

IMPORTANT TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY DECISIONS SEEN FOR 1983

Copenhagen AKTUELT in Danish 18 Feb 83 p 12

[Article by Hans Boving]

[Text] In 1983 the Media Commission will make several decisions that will affect the daily lives of us all: Should we accept a second Danish TV channel and satellite TV, which would bombard us with viewing possibilities? And should we continue to develop the wide-band telecommunications network, which literally would bring a flood of information into our living rooms?

But the United Nations also has designated 1983 as the year in which people will be informed about developments in the field of communications and participate in a broad debate concerning the direction these developments should take. The year 1983 has been designated World Communications Year.

Conspicuous Silence

So far there has been a conspicuous silence over World Communications Year here at home. But a national committee has been appointed with representatives from trade unions, viewer organizations, government ministries, employers, and organizations involved in the media and communications--"Tordenskjold's soldiers," as one committee member called them.

The chairman is Jorgen F. Pedersen of the Telecommunications Administration. He said, "We must face the fact that communications has a technical 'ring' to most people. But we hope that this year will show people that the enormous development of the communications network will influence their daily lives."

A Theme Week

To begin with, the committee has turned to television, radio, newspapers, and the trade press to convince them to produce special programs and issues on communications. In the fall the committee will hold a nationwide theme week and J. F. Pedersen hopes that many companies will open their doors to the public. Public discussions and conferences also are on the agenda and the committee is calling on local government to create local committees to disseminate information.

The national committee would like to do more. At the top of their list is the desire to distribute material, for example, on a better, electronic postal

service. Unfortunately, the committee has little money. To be sure, the Danish government supported the United Nations' unanimous decision to hold World Communications Year, but it has lacked the determination to follow up this decision with funding.

Desire And Need

The funds may be inadequate, but the desire and the need to do the job are great. Prof Bo Fibiger hopes that the communications year will spark a broad educational program on the new media: "We will not tell people whether or not they must watch Dallas, but they must be able to choose from the wealth of possibilities that will come their way. We all should learn to use the new terminals and telephones that will come into our homes."

Fibiger hopes that it will be possible to start turning out the first media instructors in September to teach high school classes. He also hopes that such classes will trickle down to elementary schools and adult education classes.

AOF Underway

Some of the large educational associations also are considering evening classes and study circles on communications. AOF (Workers' Educational Association) already is involved in a PUMA project on new technology and is planning a media handbook.

Many schools throughout the country are planning special activities weeks in conjunction with World Communications Year. The Danmedia Company is producing a booklet and a video program for elementary schools on information technology.

At the same time, both industry and labor hope that the year will spark more research. Communications can mean thousands of jobs both at home and abroad. But we know little about customer needs. "We do not even know, for example, what the results of the Media Commissions' decisions will be," Fibiger said.

Denmark Wants A Piece Of The Pie

Between now and the year 1990 Western Europe will invest 1.5 trillion kroner in communications, which corresponds to Denmark's gross national product for 3 years. Everyone agrees that Denmark must have a piece of the pie. Denmark can offer software to other countries.

J. E. Pedersen predicted that Danish business soon would benefit from electronic postal service, computerized meetings, and the possibility of working at home terminals. Arne Sorensen of the Danish Postal Service believes that construction of the wide-band communications network alone will provide jobs for 10,000 workers for many years. The cost is estimated at 40 billion kroner.

A Wealth Of Opportunities

It may safely be assumed that the information industry will provide us with a wealth of opportunities to obtain information. "Will we be happier? I do not know, but World Communications Year will give us an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons," J. F. Pedersen said.

9336

CSO: 5500/2624

DENMARK

PRIME MINISTER BACKS RECOMMENDATION FOR FOREIGN-CABLE TV

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Lisbeth Knudsen]

[Text] The government wants to change the Telecommunications Act to permit the reception of foreign television throughout the country, if viewers want to pay the price of having programs transmitted to their areas. It also would be possible to transmit foreign television programs from communications satellites to central antenna facilities throughout the country.

The prime minister drew these conclusions after receiving the Media Commission's fourth preliminary report on cable television and the presentation of foreign television channels in Denmark. Prof H. P. Clausen, chairman of the media commission, wrote in BERLINGSKE TIDENDE today that a majority of the commission recommended departing from the DR (Radio Denmark) monopoly in this way.

The prime minister also announced that the government would report to parliament on the so-called hybrid network, the first step toward a wide-band network.

The wide-band project is included in the government's investment plans. The hybrid network could be used to transmit high-quality television, telephony, data communications, video conferences, and much more. The chairman of the media commission called on the government to make a decision in the near future on establishment of this network. Thus, Denmark would become the first country to make such a decision. This would make us pioneers in the electronics and cable industry.

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DAILY SEES OPPORTUNITIES FOR DANISH INDUSTRY IN CABLE PLANS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Feb 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] The chairman of the Media Commission, Prof H. P. Clausen, said a mouthful in his article in BERLINGSKE TIDENDE today when he called the commission's new recommendations the most important result of the commission's work. He does not have in mind the commission's desire to permit the transmission of foreign television or the question of whether or not Denmark should have a second television channel. H. P. Clausen has in mind the commission's proposal to establish a nationwide wide-band telecommunications network. Most people probably find it difficult to imagine that this question is of decisive significance. But the professor is not exaggerating.

The Media Commission has come out with three previous reports. The first, on Nordsat, helped kill this ambitious project which now is of little interest. The second report, on video, did not attract much attention. The third report, on the press, did not spark the debate it deserved, but this may come later. The fourth report, on the cable, should give rise to a debate that cannot wait. Several fundamental decisions must be made by the government and by parliament in the immediate future.

The cable is not an issue that affects the mass media alone. Future trends in this area will affect many important social conditions. The cable involves public communications, telephones, telex, radio, television, and other means of communication. In the long run, however, it also will affect health and education, consumer conditions, payment systems, and labor conditions, to name but a few. In actuality, there could be a revolutionary change in many social conditions.

The cable provides industry with many opportunities that, if taken, could be of great significance. The experience of Danish industry in electronics and cable technology has shown that it could make a contribution that will reach beyond our boundaries. If a decision is made in the near future to construct a wide-band network, Danish industry could use the domestic market as a springboard to foreign markets. As Prof Clausen writes, Denmark must seize the opportunity it possesses before it is too late. Thoughts similar to those

presented by the Media Commission have been voiced in other countries and the governments of those other countries are about to make decisions. This means that Danish industry will meet increased competition if a Danish decision is not forthcoming. It also means, however, that Denmark's opportunities will increase if decisions are made in the near future.

Major investments are involved. These investments are so great that no one knows how high total investments could climb in the next decade. This may seem a bit rash in view of the country's economic situation, but if we can talk about building a bridge over the Great Belt, then we also can talk about constructing a cable system--and the cable is much more important.

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FRANCE

THOMSON LOOKS TO CABLES, GRUNDIG ACQUISITION TO RECONQUER MARKET

Goals in Cable Network Market

Paris ELECTRONIQUE ACTUALITES in French 25 Feb 83 pp 1, 7

[Article by D. Levy: "Cable Networks To Be Major Developmental Line for Thomson"]

[Excerpts] Thomson has lost no time in designating video communications cable networks as one of the group's major developmental lines. At a press conference held on 16 February in Paris--just 12 days following the launching of the PTT survey--Mr Darmon, manager of the group's Communications Branch, made clear Thomson's intention "to put maximum force and maximum determination into its penetration of this new market," setting its ambitious goal at "between 30 and 50 percent of the domestic market."

These statements of intent were justified on the basis of the group's current presence in the principal sectors concerned with video communications (from strategic optical components to professional and consumer equipment), its engineering capabilities, and its export capabilities.

Owing to the magnitude of the contemplated programs (PTT puts the value of the potential market at 45 billion francs for the connection of 15 million households over a period of 15 to 20 years) and of the technological stakes involved in the "optical developmental effort," video communications cable networks will be the business of large industrial groups. Actualization of cable networks, responsibility for which is conferred by the government on the PTT, will provide a shot in the arm to the telecommunications industry, which has lost momentum with the decline in telephone equipment programs, and will at the same time put to good account the studies that have been undertaken to prepare the advent of a wideband multiservice digital network.

It goes without saying that Thomson finds the cable network program made to measure for it. It has also decided, at one and the same time: To set up a specific organization--under the prime contractorship of LIT [Telephone and Telegraph Lines (Company)]--with a view to taking advantage of the synergy

among the diverse units of the groups concerned, to make them available for the defining of the architecture of networks and participation in operating companies; and to undertake an initiative abroad (first in the United States).

Fiber-optics Star Network

From the technical standpoint, Thomson is avowedly riding piggy-back on the PTT's current war-horse, banking on the adoption of star-configured, evolutive, optical-fiber-based networks (the latter only for the distribution network initially).

A first application of this network concept will be introduced into the Lille experiment, which the Lille Township has awarded to Thomson (the agreement with the DGT [General Directorate of Telecommunications] and the PTT [Post-Telegraph-Telephone] is to be signed next month). Around the end of this year, tests involving some 50 users will start in the Saint-Sauveur quarter of Lille before being extended to 3,000 households, then to the entire township of over 100,000 households. Each user will be provided with two apartment-type fiber-optics terminals enabling the user to access simultaneously two TV programs (selected from a set of some 30) and two audio programs (from a set of 20). A subscriber terminal will thus provide simultaneously for the connection of two TV receivers (or one receiver and one video tape recorder) and one or two Hi stereo receivers.

Articulated around five hardware systems, this entirely optics-based network, built under the prime contractorship of LIT (governed by a contract valued at around 10 million francs covering the first test phase), will consist of a transport network, a transfer network, a distribution network, a services selection center, and subscriber terminal equipment.

Group Activities

Three branches of Thomson-Communications, Consumer Products and Components--are involved in video communications networks. Within the Communications Division, Thomson is the prime contractor. This subsidiary, 1,000 million francs annual turnover, 4,000 employees, 11,000, and 1,000 million francs of orders booked, 300 million francs of which for export, has already built fiber-optics links for the PTT, Industries-Philippe Arzeste and Peugeot-Renault-Vallée, as well as for the EDF, French Electric Power Company, the SNCF (French National Railroads), and the LDC (Luxembourg). For the export market, LIT has obtained orders for fiber-optics links from the U.S. Federal Agency, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the U.S. Navy. The prime contractor for LIT Telecommunications (subsidiary) will be the prime contractor for the network cable provision in the Lille experiment.

The LIT group is also concerned with the development of video communication systems and with other optical communications systems. The LIT group is also concerned with the development of video communication systems and with other optical communications systems.

Television Division and its subsidiary LGT [General Telecommunications Laboratory], SYNECA [expansion unknown] and ITTN [expansion unknown] (for subscriber management, subscriber billing and subscriber equipment surveillance systems), and the Video Recorder Department. The future development of cable networks will involve the Subscriber Switching Department from the standpoint of wideband network switching. Thomson will also call upon the Microwave Components Division, SOCAPEX [Professional Connectors Company] and LCR [Central Research Laboratory].

This array of resources leaves no doubt that Thomson has sufficient assets at its disposal not only to participate directly in the programs but also to supply the other builders the PIT may retain. In the export sector, essentially in Europe and the United States, where there is an expansion and renewal market, Thomson plans to pursue a strategy of alliances with local firms and network operators. The group has set an export goal of 50 percent of its total activity.

Deficit in Audiovisual Equipment

Paris ELECTRONIQUE ACTUALITES in French 4 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by D. Levy: "Thomson: Reconquest of the European Market"]

[Excerpts] In presenting, at the Sound and Video Image Festival, the new mass-market consumer products Thomson will be marketing this year, Mr Blanckaert, general manager of SDRM [expansion unknown] - Thomson, dwelt at some length on the theme of reconquest of the European (and not just the French) market. "No valid response is possible outside a European frame of reference," he said, adding that the acquisition of Grundig will enable Thomson to immediately enlarge its shares of the European market. Among the products shown at the Festival, the outstanding one was the video projector mass-produced by Thomson and attractively priced to sell at 25,000 francs on the institutional market. The group will also distribute hi-fi systems manufactured at Moulins, as well as an audio laser-read digital compact disk player produced by Hitachi.

"The reconquest of the domestic market, in consumer products, must take place by way of Europe." This, in substance, is what Mr Blanckaert affirmed, invoking the "law of series," an intangible concept that produces a competitive sale price based on the competition. This is why Thomson awaits impatiently the authorization to take control of Grundig, which will immediately bring with it appreciable shares of the European market.

We note, in this regard, the surfacing of rumors last Tuesday that Philips was considering submitting a counterproposal that would put into question again the plan to relinquish control of Grundig to Thomson.

"Overall," Mr Blanckaert stated, "Thomson's trade balance shows a deficit of 500 to 550 million francs in audiovisual equipment, or 10 percent of France's total deficit in this sector." Thomson, which manufactures 2 million TV-C

[color television] sets a year (giving it one-third of the French market, 18 percent of the German market, 20 percent of the Italian market, and 17 percent of the Spanish market) shows a healthy surplus balance in this domain. In the other sectors, Thomson's trade balance is negative. In that of hi-fi equipment, as we have seen, the group is in a good position to reconquer the market. Its objective is gradually to manufacture all the products it markets.

In video, Thomson has decided to manufacture video tape recorders, now that the European market (which represents 5 million sets out of a worldwide total of 11 million) is reaching maturity. What products? Assuming it acquires Grundig, the latter will continue manufacturing the V-2000 (in larger quantities), while the group will still market the VHS. "But this point of discussion is theoretical," Mr Blanckaert asserted, "inasmuch as within 2 or 3 years we will be marketing "8-mm" equipment.

A Laser-Read Disk Player

Among the new products shown by Thomson at the Festival, outstanding was the video projector, capable of projecting SECAM [Sequential Memory Color System], PAL [expansion unknown], or NTSC [National Television System Committee] programs on to a concave or flat screen (measuring up to 2.5 m along the base). This remote-controllable equipment, manufactured at Angers, is one of the least expensive on the market and produces an image of good quality. Also noteworthy were the 40-watt and 30-watt hi-fi systems produced at Moulins, the vertical-loading laser-read disk player (Dual will also manufacture one in the future), a small portable video tape recorder VHS-C (weighing 2.4 kg), and the new FMS 7500 and 8000 automobile radio systems.

NEW TELEPHONE CABLE TO MOROCCO

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 22 Feb 83 p 9

[Text] The Portuguese foreign minister and the Moroccan communications minister will speak informally by telephone the day after tomorrow, thus officially inaugurating the new submarine telephone cable between Portugal and Morocco. The new system consists of a [cable] connection linking Burgau, Lagos and Asilah in Morocco. Asilah and Tetouan will be linked by Hertizian band.

This undertaking cost a total of 1.2 million contos. It is jointly owned by the Portuguese Radio Marconi Company (25 percent); French administration, France Cables and Radio (33.3 percent); Italcable (33.3 percent) and Moroccan administration (8 percent).

The new system (called "Atlas") improves links with Morocco, several north African countries and other countries in the Mediterranean basin. It also makes the interconnection of the Atlantic systems with the Mediterranean basin systems possible.

The Burgau submarine cable station was built with a view toward tying this new system to the "Atlantis" system that became operational last year. The Burgau station, which covers a 1200 square meter area, was built from October 1980 to October 1981. The cable, which has a minimum 25 year useful life, is 356 kilometers long, has 28 repeaters and one equalizer, and a 1260 line capacity.

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